

REMARKS

Summary

Prior to entry of the foregoing amendment, Claims 1-17 were pending in the application, with Claims 1, 10, 12, 13, 15 and 16 being independent claims. Claims 1-8 and 12-17 were canceled without prejudice. Claim 9 has been amended to be in independent format including the limitations of Claim 1. Claims 10 and 11 have been retained in their original format. New Claims 18-20 have been added with Claims 18 and 20 being independent claims.

All of the Pending Claims Are in Condition for Allowance

Claim Objections

The Office Action noted that Claims 9-11 include allowable subject matter, but were rejected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim.

Claim 9 has been amended to be in independent format including the subject matter of originally-filed Claim 1. Accordingly, Claim 9 is believed to be in condition for allowance and Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection.

Claim 10, as originally filed, is in independent format. Therefore, Applicants believe that Claim 10 and Claim 11 which depend from Claim 10 are allowable in their original form. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection.

The New Claims Are In Condition For Allowance

New independent Claims 18 and 20 contain features similar to allowable Claim 10. Accordingly, independent Claims 18 and 20 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

New dependent Claim 19 contains features similar to allowable Claim 11 and is therefore also believed to be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims pending in the application meet the requirements for patentability and respectfully request that the Examiner indicate the allowance of such claims.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this response which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account Number 502456.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner may contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

December 18, 2007

/Marlene Klein/

Date

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